

## Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 AF-10 EB-11 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SCEM-02 INT-08

COME-00 RSR-01 /152 W

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R 150925Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7402

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 2943

BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAG : PFOR KU IR SA

SUBJ: KUWAIT-IRAQI RELATIONS

1. DURING MEETING WITH CROWN PRINCE/PRIME MINISTER JABER AL-AHMAD AUG 13 I ASKED ABOUT HIS UPCOMING VISIT TO IRAQ SCHEDULED FOR AUG 20. I OBSERVED INVOLVEMENT OF HEAD OF KUWAIT GOVT IMPLIED MAJOR COMMITMENT OF KUWAITI NATIONAL PRESTIGE IN OUTCOME OF VISIT TO BAGHDAD, A FACT WHICH MIGHT INDICATE THAT GOK HAD EITHER ALREADY OBTAINED SOME IMPORTANT IRAQI ASSURANCES RE SETTLEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, OR AT LEAST PERSUASIVE EVIDENCE THAT SUCH ASSURANCES WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

2. JABER REPLIED IRAQ HAD MADE NO PROMISES. HOWEVER, WHILE ADMITTING THERE WERE RISKS INVOLVED IN TRIP TO BAGHDAD, GOK HAD DECIDED PRESENT ATMOSPHERE WAS REASONABLY FAVORABLE TO NORMALIZATION ON RELATIONS.

3. ON SAME SUBJECT LATER IN MORNING, FONMIN SABAH ALSO INDICATED  
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IRAQIS HAD ENCOURAGED VISIT BY PRIMIN BUT HAD PROMISED NOTHING.

SABAH SAID KUWAIT NEVERTHELESS HAD TO KEEP TRYING ACCOMMODATE ITSELF WITH ITS BIG NEIGHBORS. NOT ONLY WERE RELATIONS WITH IRAQ TROUBLING, BUT THERE WERE ALSO NUMBER OF UNSETTLING ASPECTS OF KUWAIT-SAUDI RELATIONS RANGING FROM DISPUTED ISLANDS AND UN-DEMARCATED OFF-SHORE AREAS TO DIFFERING APPROACHES TOWARD PROBLEMS IN GULF AND IN SOUTH YEMEN. SABAH SAID GOK HAD HOPES OF MAKING PROGRESS ON BOTH ITS NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN FRONTS WITH VISITS TO IRAQ BY PRIMIN AND TO SAUDI ARABIA BY AMIR AT END OF MONTH.

4. COMMENT: MOST PROBABLE RESULT OF PRIMIN'S VISIT TO BAGHDAD WILL BE LIFTING OF CURRENT RESTRICTIONS ON FREE MOVEMENT OF GOODS AND CITIZENS OF BOTH COUNTRIES ACROSS KUWAITI-IRAQI FRONTIER. THE TWO SIDES WILL UNDOUBTEDLY DISCUSS WHOLE RANGE OF ISSUES INCLUDING FRONTIER DEMARCATION, IRAQI DEMANDS FOR LARGER POSITION ON GULF PROPER (WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THAT KUWAIT CEDE OR LEASE WARBA ISLAND AT MINIMUM AND PERHAPS PART OF BUBYAN ISLAND AND EVEN SLICE OF KUWAITI MAINLAND AS WELL, POSSIBILITY OF OUTLET FOR IRAQI OIL THROUGH KUWAIT, KUWAITI NEED FOR WATER FROM SHATT AL-ARAB, AND POSSIBLE JOINT EXPLOITATION OF ANY OIL DEPOSITS FOUND ALONG KUWAITI-IRAQI BORDER. HOWEVER, LIKELIHOOD OF ANY EARLY AGREEMENT ON THESE MAJOR MATTERS SEEMS REMOTE. MOREOVER, WITH AMIR'S TRIP TO SAUDI ARABIA COMING SO SOON AFTER PRIMIN'S IRAQI VISIT, KUWAITIS WILL BE WARY OF MAKING KIND OF CONCESSIONS TO IRAQ THEY KNOW WILL FURTHER INCREASE SAUDI IRRITATION WITH THEM. STOLTZFUS

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